



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
for
February 5, 2003, 5:30 p.m.
Art Pick Council Chambers
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA

Present: Commissioners Brewer, Garcia, Gardner, Hendrick, Howe, Huerta and Ward

Absent: Commissioners Davidson and Floyd

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Briefing by RPD Regarding the Death of Robert McComb

Capt. Dave Dominguez, commanding officer of RPD's Investigations Division, briefed the Commission regarding the death of Robert McComb on January 28, 2003 at Indiana and Vance. The incident involved Officers Jose Loera and Ryan Wilson. Using diagrams and aerial photos, Capt. Dominguez described the incident scenario.

Capt. Dominguez concluded by saying that they are reviewing the criminal reports and will then submit their criminal casebook to the District Attorney's office for their review. He reiterated Chief Leach's statements, saying that an administrative review, handled by the Office of the Chief, will be conducted to determine whether or not the shooting was within Department policy. He noted that he will submit the criminal report to the District Attorney.

Public Comment

Mary Shelton

Ms. Shelton began by expressing her surprise that there had been a shooting in December, but said that she was not really surprised that another shooting had occurred. She commented on a Press-Enterprise article from 1999 regarding the statistics of officer-involved shootings. She said the article said that based on shootings per 1,000 officers, the national average was 7.2, but that Riverside had exceeded that every year since 1994, peaking in 1998 at 20 per 1,000.

She noted that, while there had been a quiet period, she said that seemed to be changing, having had three officer-involved shootings in three months. She expressed her concern regarding three shootings in such a short period of time and noted that if there are two more shootings this year, Riverside's average will be where it was in 1998.

Ms. Shelton also commented that with the rise in officer-involved shootings, it seemed that the RPOA was becoming more aggressive in its attempts to “bully” the Commission by telling it what it can or cannot investigate and what information it can or cannot have.

Ms. Shelton said she was unclear about Sgt. Stump’s involvement in the shooting incident – was he responding to the radio call of shots fired or if “he just was there?” She was also concerned about the shootings occurring in residential areas.

Chairman Brewer noted that the Commission’s investigator was notified and is actively involved with this incident.

James Martin

Mr. Martin said that he had read the article in the Press-Enterprise about the Commission being intimidated by the RPOA. He said that, based on the surveys that were conducted by various agencies prior to its formation, no body of legislators or commissioners had as much public approval as did the CPRC. He said that he wanted to reemphasize that the Commission has “overwhelming public support” and thanked the commissioners for serving on the Commission.

Commissioner Howe stated that the Commission has not been and will never be intimidated by the RPOA. Commissioner Hendrick echoed Commissioner Howe, saying that isn’t the case nor are they in a position to do so.

Chairman Brewer entertained a motion to adjourn, which was moved by Commissioner Hendrick and seconded by Commissioner Huerta.

The Commission adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

PHOEBE SHERRON
Sr. Office Specialist